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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/508,403	09/21/2004	Shinichiro Yamada	7217/69210	8844
23432	7590	10/03/2005	EXAMINER	
COOPER & DUNHAM, LLP 1185 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS NEW YORK, NY 10036			BRUNSMAN, DAVID M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1755	
DATE MAILED: 10/03/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/508,403

Applicant(s)

YAMADA ET AL.

Examiner

David M. Brunzman

Art Unit

1755

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

Art Unit: 1755

JP 2003-192929 and JP 2003-165917 cited in the PCT application upon which this application is based do not appear to have been published before the effective filing date of this application.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-7 and 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 6107378 in view of US 6512174 and US 5872169.

The '378 patent teaches a method for forming housings for electronic appliances by compounding a biodegradable resin such as polylactic acid and a hydrolysis inhibitor such as an isocyanate or a carbodiimide. See examples 4-6. The difference between that patent and the instant claims is the addition of a flame retardant such as high purity magnesium hydroxide having a BET surface area less than 5 m²/g. The '174 patent teaches that flame retardants including magnesium hydroxide can be added to similar resins. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to add a magnesium hydroxide flame retardant to the composition of the '378 patent for that reason. The '169 patent teaches a process for making substantially pure magnesium hydroxide that performs exceptionally well as a flame retardant for resin having a BET surface area of 0.9-3.5 m²/g. See examples 1-14. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select a magnesium hydroxide like that of the '169 patent because it teaches they perform particularly well.

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 6107378 in view of US 6512174 and US 2001/0018487.

Art Unit: 1755

The '378 patent teaches a method for forming housings for electronic appliances by compounding a biodegradable resin such as polylactic acid and a hydrolysis inhibitor such as an isocyanate or a carbodiimide. See examples 4-6. The difference between that patent and the instant claims is the addition of a flame retardant. The '174 patent teaches that flame retardants can be added to similar resins. Paragraph 57 of US 2001/0018487 teaches the use of 5-40 micron silica in making flame retardant resin compositions. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to add 5-40 micron silica to the composition of the '378 patent because the prior art teaches that it is useful in formulation flame retardant resin compositions and such as desired in the compounding of compositions for making housings for electronic appliances.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David M. Brunsman whose telephone number is 571-272-1365. The examiner can normally be reached on M, W, F, Sa; 6:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jerry Lorengo can be reached on 571-272-1362. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1755

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

David M Brunzman
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1755

DMB

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David M Brunzman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.